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of social science, the National Conference of Charities and Correction and the National Prison Association, Dr. Henderson's work will be a great boon. They will find almost every problem that confronts them touched upon, and at least some hint of its solution given. Perhaps the only criticism is that a book so full of information might well have an index of nine pages instead of three.

ALEXANDER JOHNSON.

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*The Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns.* By THOMAS CHALMERS, D.D., LL.D. Abridged and with an Introduction by Charles R. Henderson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900.

IN preparing this volume Professor Henderson has performed a valuable service for many people. It is a book which will help to translate interest into intelligence. Not a few who desire to be helpful to their fellows and to aid in every effort to benefit society are compelled to confess that they do not know what to do. "Sociology" is, to them, a name which stands for no definite idea. For those whose hearts are warm with the spirit of helpfulness, the words of one who proved himself practically helpful will come with a force and significance that speculations cannot possess. Chalmers was much more than a theorist, for he put his theories into practice and thereby changed the moral and intellectual condition of the districts where he wrought.

The condensed form in which Dr. Chalmers' work here appears will encourage some readers who might be dismayed by the unabridged treatise. The analysis which Professor Henderson presents, not only puts in succinct form the themes which Dr. Chalmers discusses, but enables the reader to discover at once how far the discussion bears upon present-day problems. Such topics as "The Wages of Labor," "Combinations of Workmen for the Purpose of Raising Wages," "Objections to Outdoor Official Relief" are sure to awaken the keenest interest.

The criticism of certain so-called teachings of Chalmers which Professor Henderson presents forms one of the most valuable portions of the book. Attention is called to Chalmers' opposition to labor unions and to his prophecy that they could never stand before "economic laws," and would die if left alone. The development of unionism and its present condition is sufficient answer to this prophecy.

Some readers may feel like putting an interrogation point after Professor Henderson's comments upon the Malthusian doctrine as it appears in Chalmers' teaching. Is it certain that the decrease in the birth-rate among the well-to-do classes is due to the influence of Malthus and his followers? Are there not other causes far more potent than this?

This book is specially commended to those who labor for the betterment of society from religious motives.

L. A. CRANDALL.

*The Practice of Charity.* By E. T. DEVINE, PH.D. New York: Lentilhon & Co., 1901. Pp. 186.

INSTRUCTED persons like to read the testimony and direction of experts. A man who starts with a full academic equipment, with the rigid discipline of economic system, and makes himself familiar with thousands of individual experiences, has a large basis for inductions and a method of interpreting them. In the company of trained people who face reality at every turn of daily duty he becomes familiar with the tendencies of thought, the regular ways of dealing with situations. The author of *The Practice of Charity* carries in his head a whole system of directions which are not of his making, but which have been evolved out of the experience and judgment of a multitude of workers. Here we look for the best wisdom of the hour.

Mr. Devine has made an admirable defense of charity in reply to the half-truth, "Not charity, but justice," and has shown that those who protest are themselves usually active in benevolent conduct. With ample material he has illustrated the types of persons who need charitable aid. Preventive agencies are discussed under the head of "Substitutes for Charity." The description and criticism of current experiments in charity organization bear the marks of well-informed and sane judgment. It is safe to set down this little volume among the indispensable books for the library of the practical workers among the poor.

C. R. HENDERSON.

*Le progrès social à la fin du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle.* Par LOUIS SKARZYNSKI. Paris: Félix Alcan, 1901. Pp. 496.

A WELL-EQUIPPED student of the exhibit of "social economics" at the Paris Exposition of 1900 has summed up for us much of the most